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5. *That which doesn’t destroy us only makes us stronger.*

A major factor that has remained predominantly unaltered in our society is the profound respect the young, or relatively younger, hold for the elderly. After all, who better to go to for guidance than those whom have already experienced most of the hardship life may readily thrust upon you? With every experience one faces, and surpasses, the more one is able to apply this to other aspects of daily life. The elderly have likely already undergone these major hardships and have had the strength to overcome them in order to reach the state they are presently in. These obstacles help us to build endurance, and as the endurance accumulates we shall eventually hold the power to be invincible to virtually all common mishaps thrown at us, and learn all the more from the greater to come. This is evident in the novel *The Crucible,* for after John Proctor is unfaithful to Elizabeth with Abigail it inspires him to be all the better as both a man and a husband. This makes him more resilient to Abigail’s temptations and more able to overcome succumbing to moral wrong, such as that evident in the victims of the Salem Witch Trials, whom underwent enough during the false trials to maintain their morality all the way up to the scaffold and beyond. Another example seen in the novel is that of Giles Corey. As he steadfastly refused to testify in order to assure that his land was to be given to his two sons, rather than to the state, he was punished to death sentence by pressing. As more and more great, heavy stones were placed upon him, he developed the strength, the faith, and the endurance to overcome those obstacles, and therefore underwent this solely asking for “more weight” as stone upon stone were heaved upon his body. It made him stronger all the way up to his death, but his death had yet to be what destroyed him, for he prospered in achieving his purpose; he refused to permit the state to lead him into committing moral injustice, maintaining himself steadfastly to what he believed him and assuring the benefit of what he desired as a result of perishing for his solemn purpose. Aside from overcoming this, Giles Corey had been able to overcome the obstacles of life that led him into his old age, which was what likely had given him the strength and determination to even stand for his position in the first place. Therefore, it is evident that if one never suffers a paper cut one shall never be able to withstand any great pain, such as a broken bone. The same goes for moral difficulty and hardship, as one shall be forced to face both this and more throughout one’s life, and as a result become a better person, more “human” so to speak, as an unruly and egocentric child with a lack of any ulterior experienced transforms to a weathered and mature adult whom finally develops the ability to consider others as well as oneself in a broader perspective, all striving toward one universal and greater purpose.